

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Earlier this year, I joined U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, the New Haven Legal Assistance Association and the Yale Legal Services Organization at a news conference in Hartford to highlight the plight of renters in the foreclosure crisis. I discussed proposed state legislation and the New Haven groups outlined a request they had made to seven leading national banks to stop automatically evicting all tenants after foreclosing on properties.

Safety and Accessibility for Cyclists

Over the last few years, many Connecticut residents have turned to bicycles as a healthy alternative to their regular commute. To help keep our roads safe for cyclists, I supported legislation this year that requires at least one percent of total funding for any state road improvement project to be spent on bikeways and other cycle-friendly features. It also created an 11-member advisory board that will recommend ways to make our roads more accessible and to promote cycling in our state.



PROTECTING LONG ISLAND SOUND

Thanks to a new law, Connecticut will be in a stronger position to protect Long Island Sound from dangerous projects, like the quarter-mile long liquefied natural gas terminal proposed by Broadwater in 2005. Fortunately, elected officials from New York and Connecticut were able to fight off this proposal. Not wanting to take any chances in the future, we passed a law that helps form a new 14-member Bi-State Long Island Sound Commission. Its charge is to protect the Sound from environmental and security threats.



We're also partnering with the Obama administration to improve water quality in the Sound. We passed a law that requires legislative input through public hearings and committee oversight of the process by which the state will access an estimated \$68 million in federal stimulus funding for Clean Water Fund and drinking water projects.



State Senate Majority Leader
Martin M. Looney

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol Phone: 1-800-842-1420
E-mail: Looney@senatedems.ct.gov
Web: www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov



Dear Neighbor,

Like all communities, New Haven and Hamden have been hit hard by the global recession. Thankfully, legislation passed by the General Assembly will help create jobs and protect local schools.

The state is giving New Haven land along the Rt. 34 corridor, which will be used as a site for new health-related and biotech businesses. More than 1,200 jobs may be created in the construction phase alone. We also established a tax credit for the construction of 'green' buildings. This measure will enhance one the largest development projects in the city, located at the corner of State and Chapel Streets.

The General Assembly also listened to the concerns of parents who were worried that budget cuts might force the Wintergreen Magnet School in Hamden to close. We provided funding so this popular regional school can stay open. Local students will also benefit from school-based health centers and family resource centers, many of which were in danger of being eliminated. These centers provide critical resources to families, such as child care, school readiness programs and immunizations.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you,

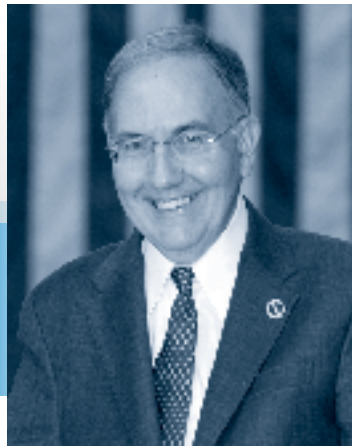
Sincerely,
Martin Looney
Martin M. Looney
State Senate Majority Leader

I'm proud to
represent the
11th Senate District:
**New Haven
& Hamden**



This newsletter has been printed on FSC-certified 10 percent post-consumer recycled paper. Please share or recycle when done.

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



State Senate Majority Leader
Martin M. Looney
11th District

Serving New Haven & Hamden

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-income families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code more fair by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.

Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services.

- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter has helped save lives in every town and city in Connecticut.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships and financial aid.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.

Saving Money With Regional Cooperation

Due to the escalating costs of energy and health insurance premiums, municipalities regularly struggle to balance their budgets without increasing property taxes. They often compete with neighboring communities to expand their tax bases through economic development efforts. Because Connecticut is a small state with so many towns, we must find ways to do more on a regional basis. That's why we passed a law allowing municipal officials to enter into agreements to promote regional economic development and share the resulting tax revenue.



Health Insurance for Autism

Help is on the way for the thousands of families in Connecticut with children who suffer from autism spectrum disorders. The General Assembly approved legislation I introduced that made Connecticut the tenth state in the nation to mandate comprehensive health insurance coverage for autism.

It requires certain health insurance policies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including behavioral therapy for a child age 14 or younger and certain prescription drugs and psychiatric and psychological services. This will improve treatment for children with autism and provide a substantial savings in medical costs for their families.



At-Home Care for the Elderly

Many senior citizens in Connecticut will soon have increased access to personal, non-medical care due to the enactment of a new law. Qualifying seniors can receive financial aid for in-home personal care assistants to help with such things as bathing, dressing and meal preparation. This approach is more desirable for seniors and more cost-effective for the state. It allows elderly residents to hire their preferred assistants without using a home health-care agency.

Disclosing Pharmacy Errors to Consumers

We put great trust in our health care providers to prescribe the best medicine for ourselves and our family. The same trust is put in our pharmacists when they are asked to fill those prescriptions. Consumers should have access to any history of errors made by their pharmacists and pharmacies. That's why I sponsored a new law allowing the state to publicly disclose information that identifies a licensed pharmacist or pharmacy that has been formally disciplined for an error in dispensing medication. The law also requires the Pharmacy Commission to make records available to the public.



HELPING FAMILIES SURVIVE THE RECESSION

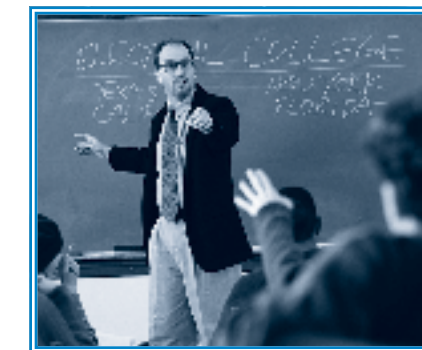
Helping Families on the Brink of Foreclosure

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs. A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner's enforcement and investigative authority.



Protecting Your Property Values

Foreclosed homes often stand empty and uncared for and can become a target for vandals. Studies have shown that one abandoned, foreclosed property can bring down neighboring property values and increase neighborhood crime. This year, the General Assembly enacted a new law that requires any bank, lender or holding company that owns a foreclosed property to register so that municipalities can enforce any state statute or municipal ordinance on the maintenance or repair of real estate.



Addressing the Teacher Shortage

Connecticut faces a teacher shortage in the near future and if nothing is done, students could face the fallout. This year the General Assembly took action by modernizing the teacher certification process and streamlining the way in which those interested in

teaching actually become teachers. Additionally, this law will give greater access to the Teach for America program, which encourages new college graduates to teach in challenging school districts.